

Message Text

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15

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

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R 221500Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2776

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

UNCLAS ZAGREB 0967

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS : CPRS, GR, YO (DECEW, RICHARD E.)

SUBJECT : CPRS: SHIPPING AND SEAMEN: PRIVATE VESSEL OF
RICHARD E. DECEW

REF : ATHENS 7509

1. POST TELEPHONED CUSTOMS OFFICE IN ZADAR OCTOBER 18 AND WAS INFORMED BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF, JAKOV MARIANI, THAT THE YACHT "VARVARA" HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN IMPOUNDED BY YUGOSLAV CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES. MARIANI STATED THAT THE YACHT REMAINS WHERE IT RAN AGROUND, BUT THAT "SOME THINGS" (HE WAS UNABLE TO SPECIFY WHAT) HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE YACHT BY PERSONS UNKNOWN.

2. MARIANI STATED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE OWNER, YUGOSLAV CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES CONSIDER THE BOAT TO BE "ABANDONED PROPERTY" SUBJECT TO IMPORT DUTY; AND IF THE OWNER DOES NOT TAKE STEPS TO SALVAGE THE BOAT WITHIN TWO TO THREE MONHS, IT PROBABLY WILL BE IMPOUNDED AND SOLD TO PAY WHATEVER DUTY IS LEVIED, WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE PROCEEDS GOING TO THE OWNER.

3. MARIANI SAID THAT
THE OWNER HAS THREE CHOICES REGARDING
THE SALVAGING AND DISPOSITION OF THE BOAT. HE CAN MAKE HIS
OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR REFLOATING AND REPAIRING THE BOAT
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AND LEAVE YUGOSLAV WATERS WITHOUT PAYING ANY DUTY. HE CAN

REQUEST THAT YUGOSLAV CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES REFLOAT THE BOAT AND PUT IT IN STORAGE FOR HIM AND REIMBURSE THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES FOR EXPENSES INCURRED IN REFLOATING AND STORAGE WHEN HE RECLAIMS THE BOAT. OR THE OWNER CAN ARRANGE FOR THE BOAT TO BE REFLOATED BY MEANS OF HIS OWN CHOICE AND LEAVE THE BOAT INDEFINITELY IN YUGOSLAV WATERS WHERE IT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CUSTOMS DUTIES.

4. MARIANI STRESSED THAT THE FOREGOING WAS "UNOFFICIAL INFORMATION" WHICH THE CUSTOMS OFFICE IS NOT NORMALLY AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE WITHOUT A WRITTEN REQUEST. POST HAS SENT A LETTER AS FOLLOW-UP TO THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN WRITING. POST INFORMED MR. MARIANI THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT ONE OF THE OWNERS OF "VARVARA" PLANS TO RETURN TO YUGOSLAVIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SALVAGE THE YACHT.

5. POST HAS OBTAINED FROM LOCAL LLOYDS OF LONDON REPRESENTATIVE VELIMIR FILIPOVIC, PROFESSOR OF MARITIME LAW ZAGREB UNIVERSITY, NAMES OF TWO LAWYERS WHO SPECIALIZE IN MARITIME LAW:

MILJENKO BELLOTTI
KORZO NARODNE REVOLUCIJE 35
RIJEKA
TELEPHONE: 22-321

DJORGE IVKOVIC
ZAGREBACKA 9
RIJEKA
TELEPHONE: 31-879
(REPORTEDLY SPEAKS ENGLISH)

6. PROFESSOR FILIPOVIC, WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH CIRCUMSTANCES OF "VARVARA" WRECK AND HAS VISITED THE SITE, OFFERED HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT A FOREIGN SALVAGE CREW WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED OPERATE IN YUGOSLAV WATERS.
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